



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC WOMAN SENTENCED FOR EMBEZZLING \$600,000 FROM EMPLOYER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for embezzling more than \$600,000 from her employer.

Sherri Lynn Fuel, 40, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to one year and one day in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Fuel** to pay \$611,940 in restitution.

On July 22, 2005, **Fuel** pleaded guilty to bank fraud. **Fuel** was employed as a payroll clerk for Malco Construction, Inc., a family-owned and operated Kansas City company that is in the business of erecting reinforcement steel at commercial sites. Malco Construction, Graves added, is owned by **Fuel's** aunt and uncle, who raised her from the age of 10. **Fuel** served as human resources officer as well as processing the mail, administering payroll, writing checks, paying the company's bills, and other duties.

Fuel admitted that from Nov. 13, 1998, through May 12, 2003, she embezzled funds from Malco by writing duplicate payroll checks to employees, then forging the endorsement on the fraudulent duplicate checks and depositing them into her personal bank account or into the accounts of her niece. **Fuel** also wrote fraudulent payroll checks to former employees and forged signatures of the company owners, then deposited them into her personal bank account.

On occasion, Graves said, **Fuel** wrote fraudulent payroll checks payable to herself, forged the signature of the company owners, and either deposited the checks or cashed them. In 2001, **Fuel** began writing other fraudulent payroll checks, forging the signatures of the company owners, then depositing them into her personal bank account.

As a result of the scheme, **Fuel** wrote 867 checks on the company payroll account,

forging or fraudulently obtaining the signatures of the company owners.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html